

We wonder how often these women have attacked defenceless lunatics when a medical man has not been at hand to testify to the assault. In our opinion, whenever an attendant is caught in the act of assaulting a patient she should be summarily dismissed, for it is fairly certain that similar occurrences have taken place when no reliable witness has been at hand; at any rate, the likelihood is so great that it is terrible to think of insane patients being once more left to the tender mercies of these women. The type of person who uses her fists to subdue a patient, however trying, proves thereby her absolute unfitness for the care of the sick. Such women should be given short shrift, and rigorously expelled from the nursing ranks.

Under militia orders published at Ottawa on August 25th, the following ladies, late of the South African Field Force, are appointed nursing sisters in the militia:—Miss Georgina Pope, Miss Sarah Forbes, Miss Mary Affleck, Miss Elizabeth Russell, Miss Deborah Hercum, Miss Mary Home, Miss Margaret Macdonald, Miss M. P. Richardson, Miss F. Eleanor Fortescue, Miss Mary Birmingham.

Among those who received the South African War Medal at Ottawa from the Duke of Cornwall and York were three Nursing Sisters, namely, Sisters Hercum, Pope, and Forbes.

It is good news that a Trained Nurses' Association has been inaugurated in Victoria, at a meeting of representative nurses held at the Melbourne Hospital. The objects of the new association are to establish registration of nurses, and a uniform system of training and examination, and in time to establish a benevolent fund. The President is Dr. J. W. Springthorpe, and the Hon. Secretaries Dr. W. A. Wood and Miss H. E. Glover. It will be remembered that the Matron of the Melbourne Hospital is Miss Amy L. Burleigh, a member of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, who is therefore in cordial agreement with the objects for which the recent meeting was convened.

The Red Cross Ambulance, sent to China by the French Society for Aid to the Wounded, has now returned, with a record of good work done. The ambulance, the entire expenses of which were borne by the Society, was intended to serve as an auxiliary to the official hospital establishment. The staff consisted of three naval medical officers, lent by the Admiralty, one civil medical man, two resident medical officers from the Paris Hospital, an apothecary, ten naval orderlies, two civil nurses, five sisters of charity, and three members of the Society. The

chief function of the ambulance was to collect the sick who filled up the ambulances in the fighting line, and who fell ill on the ships which were taking them home. In the seven and a half months of its work it treated 415 patients, the majority of which were cases of dysentery among the troops sent to the relief of the Legations, though there were also many cases of enteric fever and pulmonary disease. The only wounds treated were those received after the attack on Tientsin, and at Chan-Hai-Konan, where in the darkness, the Russian and French troops fired upon one another. It is noteworthy that the mortality was lower than that which is normal to the French army in time of peace, in spite of the intense cold. The administrative head of the hospital was Monsieur De Valence, who lost both his wife and daughter in the fire at the Charity Bazaar at Paris. The ambulance was well equipped, and the great commercial houses of France generously gave gifts in kind, such as provisions, mattresses, blankets, flannel jackets, and champagne. All the water used for drinking purposes was distilled.

The excellent custom of receiving an annual report in writing from the Matron of the institution, and of incorporating it in the Report published by the Committee, is observed at the Carlington Centennial Hospital Home for Convalescents, Camden, N.S.W., of which Miss Blanche Bricknell, a member of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, is the Matron. How useful such a practice is, is illustrated by Miss Bricknell's report for last year, which contains the following clause:—

"The sanitary arrangements have worked smoothly and efficiently throughout the year; the water service good and ample; the lighting as well as possible under the present conditions. If the scheme of lighting at present under contemplation by the gentlemen of the Committee can be brought to a successful issue, there will be cause for great thankfulness and relief. Many accidents have proved to me the grave danger to the building and its inmates from the use of kerosene oil. The lamps are unavoidably within the reach of patients, the less thoughtful of whom, when from under supervision, will interfere with them. And this, especially in summer, with mosquito nets in use, added to the restlessness of hot nights, is a grave menace. I respectfully submit that, at present, it is possible for any inmate, either by accident, carelessness, or thoughtlessness, to place a costly building and many lives in danger."

It is just such practical points, which may escape the notice of a non-residing Board, which are forcibly impressed upon the mind of a Matron, and the value of her report is, therefore, great.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)